



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND CO-DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO SMUGGLING ILLEGAL ALIENS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a United States citizen pleaded guilty in federal court today to charges of illegally transporting illegal aliens within the United States.

Raul Enriquez, 28, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning to four counts of a federal indictment charging him with transporting illegal aliens within the United States.

Enriquez is the second co-defendant to plead guilty in this case. On Jan. 16, 2004, **Julio Martinez-Resendiz**, 36, a citizen of Mexico, also pleaded guilty to all four counts of the indictment.

By pleading guilty, both men admitted that they transported four illegal aliens within the United States for the purpose of financial gain on Dec. 8, 2003, in Greene County, Mo.

The defendants were arrested when law enforcement officers stopped a 1998 Chevrolet Suburban for a traffic violation on Dec. 8, 2003. Upon inspecting the vehicle, a law enforcement officer observed what he believed to be several undocumented aliens in the vehicle.

Enriquez, Martinez-Resendiz, and the undocumented aliens were then taken into custody. The co-defendants were transporting the undocumented aliens from Phoenix, Ariz., to Springfield, Graves said.

Enriquez and **Martinez-Resendiz** were originally charged in criminal complaints filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield. The criminal complaints were later replaced by an indictment, which was returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 17, 2003, in Springfield.

Under federal statutes, both co-defendants may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 40 years in federal prison without parole and fines up to \$250,000. Their sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

This was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow